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editorial

How Longer Can Nixon Shift and Prevaricate ?

THE PRG 7-point peace initiative has been welcomed by progressive humanity as a sound basis for a fair settlement of the South Vietnamese problem. Clearly and concretely it recalls the main points contained in the 10-point overall solution on the sacred national rights of the Vietnamese and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. As the said 10-point proposal, the 8-point elucidation and the 3-point declaration put forward previously, the 7-point peace overture lays particular emphasis on two key points in the peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue: the United States should end its aggression, fix a dead-line for the pull-out of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and at the same time respect the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, no longer support the bellicose ruling clique headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, agree to the formation of a new government in Saigon that stands for peace, independence and democracy to set up together with the PRG tri-segment government of national concord in preparation for elections in South Viet Nam.

The 7-point peace plan has raised the question of military men and civilians captured in wartime, among them American pilots detained in North Viet Nam, as well as a number of measures to ensure the correct implementation of the PRG policy of national concord such as the ban on reprisals against individuals or organizations that have cooperated with either side. The offer recalls the PRG external policy of peace and neutrality, the establishment of diplomatic relations with all countries, and the accepting of aid from any country without political strings attached.

It is radiant with justice and goodwill. It is clear-cut and concrete, for it has been prompted by the reality of the Vietnamese battlefield and the urgent need to settle the South Viet Nam conflict. While reflecting faithfully the basic and sacred aspirations and upholding the interests of the Vietnamese people—peace, independence, democracy and neutrality — it also properly takes into account the honour of the American nation and the desire for peace of the American and world peoples. While asserting the PRG competence to solve the South Vietnamese problem, the initiative pays due consideration to all other patriotic and peace forces active at home and abroad, in a spirit of broad national concord in the settlement of the South Vietnamese people's own affairs. For this reason, the PRG proposal as President Allende of Chile put it, is a paragon of goodwill and political flexibility.

EVENTS in the past seventeen years have shown that the direct cause of the present grave situation in South Viet Nam is the aggressive, warlike policy of American neo-colonialism. Pursued by five successive presidents, this policy has flouted ever more seriously the sacred rights of the Vietnamese people.

(Continued page 3)

Determined to fight till the Yanks quit, and the puppets topple

Nixon and the 7-point peace initiative of the RSVN PRG

Cartoon from Saigon paper **Dien Tin**

An indictment of arch traitor Nguyen Van Thieu

SINCE he assumed office, Thieu has proved to be a willing tool for the carrying out of his bosses' brutal policy of aggression to keep the monopoly of serving the US and continue in his career as a traitor. In the past 4 years, he has been disregarding public opinion, anger and hatred, and perpetrating countless crimes against the South Vietnamese people. By words and deeds, he has exposed his true colours as a bellicose, blood-thirsty and very stubborn arch traitor.

A MOST US EFFICIENT HIRELING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "VIETNAMIZATION"

At present, everybody is aware that US "Vietnamization" is but a vicious scheme to drag out the war, implement Nixon's reactionary doctrine in South Viet Nam of pitting Vietnamese against Vietnamese and Asians against Asians. In Nixon's nice and empty words, "Vietnamization" only means the most extensive and brutal use of a huge quantity of US bombs and ammunition and of Saigon troops in coordination with American soldiers against our people.

To serve "Vietnamization," in his communique on October 6, 1969, Thieu clamoured: "We must lighten our allies' burden, first of all that of American blood, and gradually their financial burden."

On US orders, to "change the corpses' colour," Thieu has been actively and frenziedly beating up recruits to replace the worsted GIs now being gradually withdrawn from Viet Nam, and fill the gaps caused by the ever higher Saigon casualties on the Indochina theatre of the war. Thieu has forced hundreds of thousands of working people, youths, pupils, students out of their fields, factories and schools into the army as food for powder in the Americans' place, and millions of other people from 13 or 14 years to 50 or 60 years of age into "people's defence forces."

Raids and round-ups in streets to apprehend youths, pupils, teachers and professors and even priests have become daily occurrences and further aggravated the oppressive atmosphere of tension in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam.

Submissively complying with US orders, Thieu has been squandering Vietnamese blood, has hurled hundreds of thousands of Saigon troops into big scale operations beyond the Vietnamese borders: in Southern Laos, North-East Cambodia, Snuol... As a tragic result, in the past dry season alone, more than 40,000 Vietnamese youths fell casualties to "Vietnamization." Thieu has therefore turned out to be a sworn enemy of the Saigon army officers and men. Many Saigon troops now are quite indignant at Thieu's deliberately ignoring the PRG new 7-point peace initiative and holding on to his warlike "four nays" position.

To impound people and usurp their land, Thieu has been murdering our fellow-countrymen with very atrocious methods. In some places, his thugs used mines against the people's shelters and then signalled the artillery to pound the completely exposed villages. In others, they assembled 75 people on a sandy area and opened fire on them. Thieu's agents tore children asunder, killed pregnant women by walking on their bellies like in Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Soc Trang... In Xuong Tho village (Quang Nam), they once burried alive 13 people including 8 children from 3 to 7. In many other localities, they ran armoured vehicles on dead bodies or cut off their ears. More barbarous still, in My Long village (My Tho province), Thieu confined hundreds of people in cages made of wire entanglements and left them to starve or mixed poison with their food or water, which affected many of them, some lethally.

Thieu has come to an understanding with his American bosses to use bombs and shells to the highest level to flatten villages and slaughter people. The US has been dumping on South Viet Nam a daily average of 7,700 tons of bombs and shells, that is the equivalent of an atomic bombs of the type dropped on Hiroshima on 1945 every 3 days. US aircraft mostly B.52s strategic bombers have been day and night raining bombs on populated areas around the cities, province and district capitals. In some months, the surroundings of Saigon received a quantity of bombs equalling the amount of US bombs used in South Viet Nam in 1964, 1965 and 1966 put altogether. In only two months and a half of 1968, US aircraft dropped 103,500 tons of bombs, more than the quantity of US bombs released on the European battlefields during World War Two.

US bombs and shells have played havoc in many population centres. Almost all the villages in Cam Lo and Gio Linh districts (Quang Tri province) have been completely devastated. In North Quang Nam, 258 of the 487 hamlets have been laid in ruins. Go Noi region (Quang Nam province) with on area of over 40 square kilometres has been razed to the ground. The populated areas stretching dozens of kilometres along the Vam Co Dong river sides, has been turned into deserts. Tens of thousands of hectares of vegetation in the vast U Minh jungle have been burned down and 18 villages of Cu Chi district, near Saigon, reduced to rubble.

In the past two years, the US and Thieu clique have been spraying chemical poisons on more than 1,800,000 hectares of ricefields, gardens and forests, seriously intoxicating nearly 70,000 people, thousands of them fatally. Most South Viet Nam provinces have been exposed to toxic substances. Many large areas in East Nam Bo, the western part of Binh Dinh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Thua Thien provinces... have been struck. Several virgin forests, formerly seltering hundreds of kinds of trees and plants with thick foliages, contain now but withered and dried trees. Most serious is that US toxic chemicals have generated many dangerous diseases among the South Vietnamese people. A great many women have given birth to monsters. The number of lunatics increases day by day. Acute eye-trouble has been rampant. The Saigon press as well as honest American scientists attending the international conference on US chemical warfare in Viet Nam held in Paris in November 1970 strongly condemned US-Thieu crime of genocide and mass extermination.

To turn youths into cannon-fodder for the US in realizing "Vietnamization" of the war, a brutal crime of Thieu

In support of "pacification," Thieu's agrarian reform whose real purpose is to appropriate the peasants' land, is but a "pacification" manoeuvre in the economic field, aimed at herding the people into concentration centres. There, they have been seeking all means to control the people materially and morally with a network of posts, a repressive machine made up of security, secret police "Phoenix" and "Swan" agents, perverting the minds of the people by means of psy-war methods, American way of living and "canned goods" culture, tying our people to the US economy.

Thieu's intention is to undermine our people's traditions of indomitable struggle, challenge their lofty patriotism and replace it by a servile ideology and the fear of the US. But his deeds have bared not only his vicious nature but also his bewilderment and alarm before the people's reaction against "pacification" and the expanding guerilla warfare, and his complete incapability to win the masses' hearts and minds.

Like a beast driven to bay, parallel to his ever greater setbacks, Thieu has been striving to intensify his control, repression and persecution of the people still under his rule. He has raised his police forces to over 200,000 and eventually to 600,000 in an attempt to stem the people's revolutionary movement in the cities and the country, wipe out revolutionary bases, crack down on the opposition parties and the forces of peace and neutralism. Hundreds of police raids and thousands of arrests take place daily in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam. Colby, former US deputy-Ambassador in Saigon, revealed on July 19, 1971 before the House of Representatives that 20,575 people were killed, and 46,107 others arrested in "Phoenix" operations between 1968 and 1971 (these figures are certainly far below reality).

Besides such atrocities, Thieu has been seeking to undermine our people's morale with US depraved, gangster-like and alien culture. A whole South Vietnamese young generation especially in the cities have now been driven onto the path of depravation. All our people's finest traditions are being destroyed. Millions of youngsters cannot attend school. The number of 9 and 10-year olds left without education has been on the increase.

The situation of every family in South Viet Nam has been seriously threatened due to Thieu's pauperisation policy through various absurd and ruthless taxes, such as the "austerity" tax, the "7 economic measures"... A great many girls of only 13 years of age have become prostitutes by the force of circumstances. Many young mothers, unable to bring up their children, have had to sell themselves or the latter, or even to commit suicide...

(To be continued)

Thieu's Election Frauds Exposed

AS planned, the "Lower House" elections were held on August 29 in Saigon and all provinces in South Viet Nam in an atmosphere of terror and fraud. Half an hour before the voting began, police and soldiers were sent in to surround the polling booths. The GIs were kept on the alert. Security agents and civic action agents were out to coerce the electors into casting votes for Thieu's men, bully the recalcitrant ones and carry out such brazen acts as filling the voting papers for voters, with only the names of pro-government candidates (as in Long Xuyen) and vote for absent electors to swell the number of ballots of Thieu's men (as in Rach Gia). Thieu's agents went the length of manhandling and arresting those who denounced their fraudulent manoeuvres or using the administrative and military apparatus to eliminate opponents. They had had village headmen sign affidavits not to give such candidates as Ngo Cong Duc more than 20 per cent of total of votes.

However the people's disgust grew in proportion to terrorist and repressive measures. Anti-election fraud movements were mounting everywhere. In its July 27 issue, *Dan Chu Moi* (New Democracy) reported that "these mass movements are mushrooming" and that "the popular front against election frauds together with the coalition of all sections of the people for US scrapping of warmonger Nguyen Van Thieu and for the shattering of his fraudulent election apparatus were gaining great momentum. In many localities the inhabitants boycotted the elections which *Le Figaro* described as "a kind of lottery." Seventy per cent of the electorate at Binh Tuy were soldiers and policemen. Many people forced to go to the polls left the polling-stations after realizing that they had been involved in an election farce. *Hoa Binh* (Peace) observed on August 30 that "as people were fed up with the elections, the percentage of voters was the lowest compared with any previous ones."

In Tra Vinh, many leaflets challenging the elections returns were distributed and the Catholics fighting for independence and peace declared non-recognition of the four "MPs" "elected" by Thieu in that province, because they represented nobody, and called on the inhabitants to boycott Thieu's forthcoming "presidential" election. The *Parliamentary Committee against Rigged Elections* also urged Thieu to "annul" the elections in the provinces where frauds had been discovered.

In its August 31 issue, *Chinh Luan* (Just Opinion) commented: "The outcome of the present elections shows that the electors are unanimously hostile to Thieu. In other words, by his recent acts, especially in the preparation for the presidential elections, Thieu has driven the voters into the arms of the opposition."

Despite the exposure of the irregularities in the voting and widespread condemnation by public opinion, Nguyen Van Thieu still declared the "presidential" election to be held as scheduled on October 3 with the only Nguyen Van Thieu — Tran Van Huong ticket. Ton That Dinh said that "Thieu is obdurate because he can rely on US backing. To save the situation, Washington should scrap Thieu ..." *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion), August 25. Commenting the August 29 and October 3 elections, Bonze Superior Huyen Quang, in the name of the An Quang Buddhist Sect, pointed out: "Whereas the October election will be so fraudulent that Messrs Minh and Ky have had to withdraw, the election to the "Lower House" was meaningless because it was but a mere swindle... In this country (enemy-held areas—*Ed.*) law and the constitution are swayed by political forces and the people have no more confidence in any "high level" of the present administration" (Thieu client administration —*Ed.*) Tran Van Tuyen, a lawyer, held that the "present crisis is no longer that of the administration but that of the regime. If Mr Thieu runs alone in this election, there will be no end of confusion."

About the present turmoil in Saigon, MP Pham Van Tam said: "Mr Thieu has put this regime topsy-turvy. Clearly it is heading for its doom." The Malian paper *Essor* commented that "the Saigon regime just like the Thieu administration is not worth speaking of because set up long ago, it represents nobody and will never represent anybody." Holding the Americans responsible for the present jumble in Saigon, *Dan* (People) wrote: "The withdrawal of Messrs Minh and Ky was staggering blow at President Thieu and also a splash of cold water on the old "refrigerator" man. Bunker's velvet hand is powerless." Prof. Ly Chanh Trung was more explicit in *Tin Sang* (Morning News): "Mr Bunker has won fame as an expert in election frauds. He was highly successful in Santo Domingo in 1965 and in South Viet Nam 1968; he should be wiser at his age if he wants to win more brilliant success! But, alas, as the ancestors of the Vietnamese people said: "Who lives by a trade, will die by it," Mr Bunker and his offsprings will have but one alternative left, that is to "go home" the sooner the better. In face of that blatant election hoax, Dang Van Sung, one of Thieu's protégés, had this to say: "Though an apologist of the present regime, I have to admit that this election is a fraud, no more and no less."

The present tragic situation in South Viet Nam cannot help the US-Thieu clique get out of the current serious political morass. On the contrary, there are now countless obstacles on the single road on which Thieu will ride alone to the "Independence" Palace, which will surely sink the US and Thieu deeper into Vietnamization quagmire.

How Longer...

(Continued from page 1)

Mr Nixon cannot, therefore, speak of guaranteeing the latter's independence and national sovereignty and at the same time pass over in silence US aggression and total US troop withdrawal. There can be no peace, not even for a single day, so long as foreign aggressors remain on South Viet Nam's territory. The rundown of a number of American units has not at all reduced the fierceness and scale of the war. In fact, it is in the process of this withdrawal that the war has been protracted, expanded, and become fiercer — a sequel of the Nixon administration's Vietnamization policy which has led to increasing Saigon troop strength, and maximum coordination of US combat troops and logistical support. The tonnage of bombs and bullets used since the withdrawal started two years ago has equalled that of the previous fifteen years. So, in order to settle the South Viet Nam issue and restore genuine peace on the basis on Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, the essential thing to achieve is an end to the war and to Vietnamization and a timelimit for US troop withdrawal. This is the legitimate desire and demand of the Vietnamese and American peoples, just as what is called for by the prevailing situation in South Viet Nam. There is no other choice. The maintenance of the American troops' presence in Viet Nam is incompatible with a peaceful solution of the South Viet Nam question and the termination of the US cruel war of aggression in South Viet Nam.

TO everyone's knowledge, from Ngo Dinh Diem to Nguyen Van Thieu, Saigon administrations have been but instruments for the realization of US policy of aggression and domination in South Viet Nam. The present trigger-happy clique led by Nguyen Van Thieu has most clearly shown its true colours as one of traitors while the US is carrying into effect "Vietnamization." This can be seen in Thieu's extremely reactionary "four nays" position, in Bunker's attempts to maintain Thieu in the one-man race in October. The elections to the "Lower House" or to the presidency are farces obviously produced and directed by Washington and clumsily staged by Bunker. There can be no genuine peace so long as the United States does not want to give up the instrument of war—the warmonger Nguyen Van Thieu. The right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people calls for really free and democratic elections, and removal of US agent Nguyen Van Thieu. There will be no such elections so long as US troops go on occupying South Viet Nam, and so long as the American Ambassador bosses the show as Bunker has been doing so far. For all these reasons the 7-point peace overture demands that the US stop supporting arch traitor Nguyen Van Thieu and let the people form in Saigon another administration which, standing for peace, independence and democracy, will discuss with the PRG the setting up of a government of national concord with a view to preparing for really free elections to be held after all US troops pull out from South Viet Nam.

From the above, the 7-point peace program appears logical, reasonable and realistic. And this why it has received a warm welcome, approval and support at home and abroad.

In Saigon, since early July 1971 popular feeling has been running high against the US-staged and directed electoral farce, and agitating rife for the resignation of Thieu, for the formation of a government favouring peace, independence and democracy and serious negotiations with the PRG, and at the same time the withdrawal of US troops to restore peace in Viet Nam and better living conditions for the masses. This three-pronged offensive has compounded the unrest in Saigon and worsened the client administration's prolonged political crisis.

In the United States the movement against war, for peace in Viet Nam, for troop pull-out has been ceaselessly and vigorously developing and come to a climax with the Spring offensive. Large segments have unmasked Nixon's using the "POW issue" to postpone the withdrawal of US troops instead of trying to settle the question of military men and civilians captured as suggested by the PRG 7-point proposal. American opinion has also bared the Nixon administration's interference in the elections in South Viet Nam to keep Nguyen Van Thieu in office and prolong the war under the "Vietnamization" label regardless of the American people's sacrifices in life and wealth.

In the world, Nixon is more isolated than ever. His reaction to the cogent PRG peace overture has further exposed him as an aggressor and warmonger. Everywhere one can witness support for the PRG and indignation at the US President's prolonging and expanding of the war, and deliberate ignoring of popular legitimate demands.

TO date, there has been no sign of the Nixon administration's desire to negotiate and negotiate seriously. Apart from stepping up "Vietnamization", frantic pacification operations in South Viet Nam and strikes by US henchmen at the liberated zones in northeastern Cambodia and Plain of Jars in Laos, they have been resorting to a series of manoeuvres to elude a meaningful response. Diplomatically, Nixon has been striving to induce people to believe in his keen interest in a settlement of the South Viet Nam problem, his concern in the American people's demands and in an end to US involvement in Viet Nam and Indochina. But none of this can deceive public opinion or extricate him from the war.

The door to peace is wide open. Should Nixon refuse to go through it, he would have no other alternative than to engage further in the present blind alley. There is no magic to help him maintain US occupation and neo-colonialist domination in South Viet Nam through the agency of the Thieu administration. Should Nixon refuse to meet the above-mentioned crucial claims and continue to prevent a political solution along the line of the 7-point peace initiative, the South Vietnamese would not lay down their arms and would push up their resistance until "the Americans quit and the puppets topple." Such is also the resolve of the whole Vietnamese people.

It is up to Nixon to decide which way to take, but he cannot shift and prevaricate for ever.

SOUTH VIET NAM

• *The convention of workers at the Hanh Phuoc dyeing factory has called on the workers to step up their struggle for a general wagelift and denounced the employers' attempts to divide their ranks and intensify exploitation and planning massive lay-offs in the near future. It also protested the employers' stubborness and arrogance and demanded punishment of their agents. It threatened strong actions to defend the interests and dignity of the workers.*

• *The trade union organizations at the US firms have rejected their American employers' pretexts to sack Vietnamese workers and replace them by foreigners. It is expected that by October 1971, more than 30% of Vietnamese workers at US firms will have been laid off. The Saigon Federation of Trade Unions has sent a letter to the US Embassy protesting against such actions.*

• *Workers at the "Vien Dong" and "Viet Nam" battery factories in Saigon have launched a new joint drive. They claimed a 30% rise for their basic wages, equal pay for women workers, protection against noxious gases in working places and an end to the beating of workers. They expressed their determination to keep up their protest until the employers meet all these claims.*

in *the cities*

• *In only five days of forcible military training at the Quang Trung training centre, three students died of exhaustion, four others were dying and 39 were seriously affected with meningitis. Large numbers of professors, students and pupils and many mass and political organizations have strongly come out against the fascist military training program of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, in defence of the life of over 2,000 students now undergoing military training at the centre. 15,000 people of various strata and representatives of more than 50 organizations in Saigon together with large groups of students recently turned the funeral of student Pham Hanh, a victim of the "militarization of schools," into a stirring demonstration urging Thieu to resign and Bunker to quit South Viet Nam.*

• *Within only one week after the Saigon students launched their anti-US campaign, seven US military vehicles have been burned or destroyed in the streets. The US Embassy had to ban the parking of American vehicles in the streets.*

• *On September 7, large numbers of Saigon war disabled again staged a demonstration in front of the "War Veterans Ministry" for allowances and benefits. A demobilized armyman chopped off his thumb in protest against illtreatment of his mates by the Thieu regime.*

• *On September 6, hundreds of Saigon women including British teacher C.Hustings, and 20 Buddhist nuns in saffron robes staged a sit-in in front of the "Supreme Court" for the release of Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh, president of the "Movement of Women's Actions for the Right to Live." The demonstrators blocked the entrance to the "Supreme Court" to prevent police from marching Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh away.*

• *The "Peaceful Co-existence Committee" of the Cao Dai religious sect in Tay Ninh has issued a strong statement against Thieu's crimes during his past four years in the service of the US aggressors It called on Cao Dai believers to keep up a resolute fight for US-Thieu respect for the people's democratic liberties and abrogation of the arbitrary provisions in the "presidential elections law."*

WHEN MAGIC NO LONGER WORKS

TO build up a strong native client army to wage war against national liberation movements is a main purpose of the "Nixon doctrine." According to the American strategists' viewpoint on the "omnipotence" of weapons, the USA must supply their mercenaries with the greatest armoury to "crush the opponent" and "save themselves." For the US-fostered Saigon troops, US planes, tanks and heavy guns are "magic wands" apt to put them on their feet, and enable them to perform their role as "backbone" of Nixon's strategy of "Vietnamization." The US imperialists have accordingly dumped on the Saigon army an "unlimited" quantity of planes, tanks and heavy guns. During over two years of his tenure, Nixon has handed to the Saigon troops over 850 aircraft. However, air support rests mainly with US troops. Towards mid-1971, the USA still had over 3,500 aircraft of various kinds (apart from strategic bombers B.52s) on the South Viet Nam battlefield. It has ordered the Thieu clique to establish a series of armour squadrons, artillery battalions, and provided them with big vehicles and heavy guns. In South Viet Nam the Americans still have 57 artillery battalions and 12 tanks and armour squadrons. But the realities on the battlefield have shown that US weapons and materials cannot make up for the Saigon troops' basic weaknesses in politics and morale: they only aggravate them and make their users lose confidence in their "omnipotence" and in final victory.

PLAF shells of hatred have rendered all US weapons and war equipment ineffective

As a matter of fact, despite a huge air support, the puppet troops have been repeatedly beaten on the South Viet Nam theatre of war. At Ngoc To Ba, Ngoc Rinh Rua (High Plateaux), Fuller Base, Doi Tron, Ba Ho (North Quang Tri)... although the operations lasted long enough for the US—Saigon to make the most of their superiority in aviation, they were wiped out by big contingents, and in some engagement, US advisers and hundreds

of Saigon officers and men were captured. On the Highway 9—Southern Laos, the US air force suffered heavy losses while providing "unlimited" cover to the "allies": in one campaign over 700 aircraft of various kinds were downed or destroyed. The Saigon troops received smashing strikes in broad daylight right when US planes were roaring overhead. The myth of the USAF supremacy was debunked at the very moment when it could easily be given full scope. In particular, the "mobility through helicopter" tactics was humiliatingly frustrated. Despite a huge fleet of "flying pack-horses" and the over 1,000 support aircraft of various kinds in the Highway 9 Southern Laos campaign, the Americans failed to help their hirelings bring to fruition their "hill-top hopping" tactics. And when the latter were facing annihilation, the former were unable to help them "hop" back. Even air supply was so difficult that whole Saigon battalions were left in the lurch, which shook their confidence in the "awful might" of the US airforce. South Viet Nam troops' race against death under US air support (West German paper *Des Spiegel* of April 5) in Southern Laos exhausted them, for they had to hack their way through thick forests before they could cling to rescuing helicopters (*Reuter*, August 17). All this spells out the sad plight of the Saigon infantry when air force becomes impotent.

Besides, tanks and guns are no longer a firm prop for them. In the first six months of this year, over 2,000 tanks and armoured cars, 400 guns and heavy mortars of the US-Saigon were destroyed on the South Viet Nam battlefield alone. Remarkably enough, in many engagements the liberation fighters managed to capture intact many tanks and guns, implementing the motto: "seize enemy weapons to arm oneself."

The ineffectiveness of US tanks and guns was best illustrated in the Highway 9-Southern Laos incursion. Deploying four regiments of tanks and armoured cars, the Saigon troops used the "caterpillar tactics" to open the way for their infantry to their objective. But the "caterpillar" columns also proved of no use and instead were trounced. The Americans helilifted eight crack "allied" artillery battalions onto the hill-tops to set up an artillery network for the campaign. But they could not "crush" their adversary and on the contrary were punished by the Liberation combatants' guns. Frightened out of their wits, the enemy tankers left their vehicles to run for dear life. And when the "steel shield" tactics was thwarted, the infantrymen thrown into confusion fell easy prey to their opponents. So instead of supporting the footmen, the US-Saigon armour and artillery had many times to call them in for rescue.

"Why bother to save them while they could not even protect us?", said Saigon army survivors.

Obviously enough, when US weapons and equipment no longer work, the Saigon troops have only one recourse left: to flee for life.

T. H.

Cam Ranh Again Under Fire

LYING in a hilly region most convenient for defence, Cam Ranh is a big naval base and a logistic complex supplying war materials to the US and Saigon air, naval and ground forces operating in all theatres of operations in Indochina.

On August 25, it was stormed by the PLAF of Khanh Hoa province (South Trung Bo) who mounted a splendid and most destructive onset.

The patriotic forces began to assault the guards and hit hard at the central depot storing bombs, shells and rockets. The explosions of 15,000 pounders and ammo dumps affected a vast area; according to *UPI*, they shook buildings 4 km away and could be heard at Nha Trang, a town 35km to the north. Meanwhile the PLAF devastatingly shelled the airfields. The toll was 32 storehouses containing over 50,000 tons of bombs, shells and rockets (including 15,000 pounders), a dump of rockets blasted together with a radar station and a military vehicles and 55 Americans put out of action.

Cam Ranh was heavily defended in the inner belt by tens of thousands of GIs and Pak Jung Hi troops and in the outer by Saigon forces who made frequent forays into the surrounding areas. But all this could not ward off the blows of the local liberation forces: in the first three days of June, 1970 they made four attacks, destroying forty thousand tons of military goods and war equipment; on the night of March 23, 1971, they raided the oil tanks of the US reserve forces, setting on fire 45 million litres of petrol including nearly 10 million litres of fuel for jet planes. This time the damage was very heavy, because of a PLAF direct hit.

Striking at a big base having a many-layer defence line and the home-thrust at its central area to erase many storehouses testify to the high combativeness, combat skill and most efficient tactics and technique of the PLAF in Khanh Hoa province. In pinpointing Cam Ranh, the patriotic forces wanted to hit hard at the biggest "supply base" of the US aggressors and increase their difficulties in logistics and supplies.

The Khanh Hoa PLAF action also whittled down the strategic reserves of US war prolongation plan and caused a further drop in of the enemy's morale and combat efficiency.

A Kind-Hearted Liberation Fighter

FOR a couple of nights, sleep was slow to come to Hling. His eyes wide open, he now and then heaved a sigh. He was angered at the US-Thieu's attack on his village and anxious to end the shortage of rice and salt in T.K. village.

His wife who knew his worry could no longer keep silence.

"Why don't you get some sleep? The birds have stopped singing for a long time and the cocks will soon crow and call our folks to the fields. It is several nights that you have not had a wink of sleep. What is on your mind?"

Hling set up, blew at the embers of a log of wood and filled his pipe. After taking a puff at it and exhaling rings of smoke in the air, he confided:

"My dearest, I became an orphan when a child. Since I came here with my elder sister, I have grown into a man thanks to the kindness of our fellow-villagers to whom I am greatly indebted. Now that they are hungry I must do something about it. They are victims of the Americans and Thieu, so we must avenge them. Since long I have intended to tell you and our people that I want to share with them the cassava we had planted before I joined the Liberation Army. But I am not sure whether you are agreeable."

Hling's wife was all smiles:

"Why didn't you tell us earlier? We too have got the same idea." With his mind at peace, he soon dropped off.

When morning came, he did not go to the fields but to his in-laws whose agreement he at once got.

Since then the T.K. villagers had cassava to eat. This enabled them to carry on food production and military training. Hling went even farther: he persuaded them to pool their efforts, so that the 30,000 cassava plants of his family now became common property.

Once the food problem solved, many other difficulties cropped up, among which individualism, the habit of working each for himself only... But Hling did not lose heart: he tried by all means to enlighten his fellow-villagers. Apart from organizing production, he taught them how to read, sing and dance. This had an immediate beneficial effect on production. The sight of the green fields lush with cassava, maize and sweet potato drew warm praise from the villagers: "What a nice man is this Hling! He cares for our food, our clothes, our entertainments and our studies. That is a good Liberation fighter."

Hling's determination to cling to his village and fields to carry out production and build a new life soon was shared by all villagers. Within one year they reaped a bumper harvest of cassava, maize and rice. The cooperative group organized by Hling had enough to eat and could even contribute a part to the resistance war. Despite US-Thieu's bombardments and "mopping-up" operations, the group continued to fight the enemy and tend the fields, growing 70,000 more cassava plants, 400 hectares of maize and sowing over 400 kilograms of rice seeds.

Recently the cooperative group of Hling, the Liberation fighter of T.K. village, Gia Lai province, was commended by the Front Committee for its farming achievements.

THONG TAN

The DRVN in brief

• Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and Premier Pham Van Dong of the DRVN Government have visited a number of flood-stricken areas.

At Gia Lam district in the outskirts of Hanoi and at Chuong My district, Ha Tay province, they called at many families affected by the natural calamity. They recommended to the people in the hit areas to pay attention to their health and actively restore production so as to restore their life to normal and strengthen solidarity and mutual aid.

In the same period, Truong Chinh, Chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee, called on the officers and men of the Viet Nam People's Army and the local officials and people working at the dike-building yard number T.100.

After inquiring after the people's condition in that region, and the dike defenders' health, Truong Chinh cordially talked with them and wished them "success and great success in the fight against the floods."

o Realizing the "where there are people there are medical workers" watchword, the Ministry of Public Health has sent 200 doctors, pharmacists, and assistant doctors to the provinces hit by the recent floods to assist the medical workers in giving care to dike defenders and people. The Ministry has also dispatched there a big amount of preventive and curative medicines to be distributed to the people. The medical workers have been on duty day and night.

o Term in the general education schools in Hanoi has opened. The number of pupils in this school year rose to 330,000, an increase of 10 per cent compared with last year. 200 more class-rooms have been built and thousand of desks and benches made for the new classes and schools.

o To produce 40,000 more tons of cement for kith and kin South Viet Nam, the Hai Phong Cement plant has launched an emulation drive. Technicians and workers at the engineering and fitting sections have been zealously working for months. They have moved hundreds of tons of iron and steel for building furnace walls, completed the building of the new furnace before the set time, and will shortly put it into operation.

o The Viet Nam Journalists' Association held on September 8 a meeting in commemoration of the International Day for Solidarity with the Journalists and the 25th founding anniversary of the International Organization of Journalists.

Speaking on this occasion, Hoang Tung, President of the VNJA, talked about the growth of the I.O.J. through 25 years of active struggle and of the VNJA, a member of the I.O.J. since 1950.

On behalf of the Vietnamese pressmen, Hoang Tung sincerely thanked the I.O.J. and all the democratic and progressive journalists the world over for their constant and warm support to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause.

Mass education in a minority people's region of the DRVN

Cambodia

Heavy US-Puppet Failures at the Beginning of this Rainy Season in Cambodia

The operations conducted by the US imperialists and their lackeys, from Operations "Chenla-Kauk Thalok I and II" to those codenamed "Total Victory" in the regions Kompong Cham and Kratié, have ended in total defeat. The entire enemy plan in the last dry season has been thrown into the dustbin of history. As a result, in the current rainy season, the US imperialists as well as their Saigon valets and the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak puppets militarily find themselves in a situation of agony and convulsion. On the one hand, in their passivity, they have to face the continued attacks made by the people and their National PLAF, and on the other, by revamping their forces they hope to re-take from the dustbin the plan for the 1970-71 dry season for use in the next 1971-72 dry season.

Although they have set three objectives for their action, they could reap only defeats in this rainy season.

First of all, the enemy sustained disastrous defeats in the *first theatre of operation: Snuol*. The Saigonese puppets fielded more than 20,000 men, a military force equal to that involved in Operation "Lam Son 719" in Southern Laos, with whole armoured divisions and heavily concentrated pieces of artillery. Air support was ensured by US imperialism with thousand of engines including B. 52's. The Americans and their Saigon puppets established their HQs at Snuol, big strategic center of vital importance for the Saigon and Phnom Penh puppet regimes. But in spite of this deployment of forces, they were badly mauled by the Cambodian CNPLAF. Violent attacks launched late May continued without a let up for 4 days and nights running. Finally, the CNPLAF were in full control of Snuol, while the enemy sustained heavy human and material losses. The attacking forces destroyed or seized more than 200 military vehicles. As for the surviving Saigon troops, it was a real retreat back to South Viet Nam. The enemy defeats were heavy and bore a great strategic significance. It was a "Dien Bien Phu" for the imperialists and their Thieu-Ky puppets as commented by news agencies in the world.

In the *second theatre of operation around and inside of Phnom Penh*, the Lon Nol – Sirik puppet troops struggled hard to relieve the pressure hardened on all sides by the CNPLAF. They came under attack in all directions, sometimes only a few kilometres from Phnom Penh, and even inside the capital itself. The most violent attacks were directed against the enemy's important defence line East of the Mekong River. The defeats inflicted on enemy troops in this sector threw those dug in at Phnom Penh to disarray. The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak traitors sent their representatives to seek military assistance from the Thieu-Ky puppets in an effort to get their soldiers out of the mess which was this theatre of operation.

In co-ordination with the operations of encirclement launched on all sides around Phnom Penh, the CNPLAF attacked the enemy inside of the city itself. They hit and destroyed the HQs of the US forces, the billet of military personnel and the US Embassy. Grenade attacks were made on enemy cars in Phnom Penh streets. The hardest blow came when the valiant Liberation fighters blasted down the camp of a Khmer Serei brigade, which was also the biggest logistic compound at the Olympic stadium, storing pieces of artillery, automatic weapons, munitions and even rockets. These attacks landed the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak traitors into utter confusion. The situation in Phnom Penh went from bad to worse.

In the *third theatre of operation: on Route 3*, under the command of Lon Non, younger brother of Lon Nol, the operation codenamed "Akinett Moha Padevath" and recklessly launched by the band of traitors was aimed on the one hand at clearing Route 3 which should serve as a supply line in replacement of Route 4 totally blocked by the CNPLAF, and on the other at linking the zones stretching from Routes 3 and 4 to the South Viet Nam border. The Phnom Penh puppets massed a force of 20,000 men drawn elsewhere and opened three important attack prongs in the direction of Angtassom, hoping to re-open Route 3 linking Phnom Penh to Kompong Som. First attack prong: Boka-Pary Kasei, second prong: Tram Khnar, Srang and Slap Leng, and third prong: Kampot, Kani and Takor, including Prek Samdek district. But hardly had they moved out a few kilometres from their bases when they came under violent attacks by the guerillas, regional forces and regulars who fought in well-concerted actions. The enemy suffered heavy losses. And Operation "Akinett Moha Padevath" conducted by the lackeys of US imperialism turned out to be "Operation Akinett of big defeat" in the flame of the great revolutionary war waged by the Cambodian people under the banner of the NUFK.

HOANG SON

Saigon troops, the shock force of the Nixon doctrine, carrying their mates' corpses while fleeing from Cambodia

Laos

Nearly 1,200 Enemy Troops Wiped Out in August

THE Lao patriotic armed forces and people last August attacked the enemy on almost all battlefronts across Laos, particularly in the Plain of Jars (Xieng Khoang) and Paksong and Bolovens (Southern Laos), and won big victories.

According to still incomplete statistics, *they put out of action nearly 1,200 enemy troops, seized or destroyed more than 200 arms including 36 artillery pieces, 4 military vehicles and a quantity of other military equipment. They shot down 8 US aircraft and damaged many others.*

In terms of units, two companies of the Vientiane puppet army were neatly wiped out, and one battalion of Thai mercenaries heavily trounced.

In their assaults on the 23rd Vang Pao "special forces" mobile regiment (GM.23) north of the Plain of Jars on August 11, 27 and 28, the patriotic forces put out of combat 230 enemy troops. Earlier, on August 5 and 9, in their engagements with the 22nd mobile regiment (GM. 22) and with one battalion of "special forces" north of the Plain of Jars, they had wiped out 135 enemy troops.

The patriotic forces in Xieng Khoang province on August 27, 28 and 29 assaulted many encampments in the northern part of the Plain of Jars, wiping out more than 200 enemy troops, and seizing or destroying a quantity of weapons and other war supplies. Supplementary reports said that in the same period, they shelled an enemy artillery ground in the southern part of the Plain, wrecking three 105mm cannons, and killing or wounding many enemy troops.

In *Southern Laos*, the patriotic forces in Bolovens and Saravane broke off many nibbling attacks launched jointly by Vientiane rightist troops and Thai mercenaries on the liberated area of Paksong. On August 11, 18 and 28, more than 300 enemy troops were put out of action, one Thai battalion decimated, and two US aircraft shot afire. The patriotic forces also captured or destroyed 4 military vehicles and a big amount of war supplies.

In coordination with the patriotic forces in the Plain of Jars, Bolovens and Saravane, the patriots in Savannakhet province pinned down the enemy at Dong Hen and Pha Lan, wiping out close to one hundred enemy soldiers. The patriotic forces in Udomsay province swept a bandit nest at Pak Khop on August 22, wiping out 42 men.

Meanwhile, guerillas and people in enemy-held areas continued punishing ennemy raiders and cruel agents, and stepping up political agitation among the enemy ranks.

in brief ★ in brief ★ in brief

— On August 27, in Bamako, when receiving the visiting RSVN Ambassador to Algeria, the Head of State Moussa Traore declared that the Republic of Mali would continue her support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people against the US aggressors for national salvation and to the RSVN PRG 7-point peace proposal.

— On September 7, a communique was made public at a meeting held in Copenhagen (Denmark) by the North European Foreign Ministers, which expressed the participants' common view that a lasting peace in Indochina could only be achieved by a political solution which would guarantee the right of the Indochinese peoples to shape their future all by themselves.

— On September 4, in Sofia, a joint communique on the talks between Mr Todor Zhivkov, First Secretary of BCP Central Committee, and Georges Marchais, Deputy Secretary General of the BCP, said: "The two parties support the 7-point solution of the RSVN PRG as a basis for the restoration of peace and security in Southeast Asia."

— Recently, the Standing Committee of the 21st World Congress of Scientists held in Bucarest (Romania) and the 5th Summer Congress of World Youth held in Moscow (USSR) issued a statement firmly supporting the 3 Indochinese peoples' heroic struggle and the 7-point peace proposal of the RSVN PRG and urging the US government to withdraw its backing from the Nguyen Van Thieu administration and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference.

— On September 3, in Santiago, addressing the rally of over 200 representatives of the Chilean mass and official organizations in honour of the 26th National Day of the DRVN and the international get-together of the Latin American and North American Youths and Students for Solidarity with Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, Senator Maria Elena Carrera, President of the Chilean-Viet Nam Institute of Culture and Friendship, warmly extolled the Vietnamese people's great contribution to the world movement against imperialism, and underlined that the Chilean people were conscious that there would be more days like the last September 4 (when President Allende was returned to office), thanks to the Vietnamese people's heroic fight. The Chilean people would do their best to support it till total victory.

— An "Indochina Week" is being prepared by the "Sweden Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam" in coordination with other political and mass organizations under the "US government must fix a definite date within 1971 for the total pullout of the US," "Support the 7-point initiative of the RSVN PRG" watchwords.

— On September 4, in San Francisco, 200 American women staged a demonstration in front of the 6th Army Headquarters in protest against the US government's recent establishment of "the Institute for Research on New Chemical and Biological Weapons" which will serve the war of aggression in Indochina.

— Recently, a statement was released by the Central Union of Cloth Makers belonging to the AFL-CIO in the United States, demanding that the US Government end its aggressive war in Viet Nam, which has caused the misery of some 25 million Americans.

— On September 6, US Labour Day, at a meeting in New York, progressive unionists, Viet Nam veterans and peace militants etc... strongly condemned Nixon's new economic measures and demanded the total and immediate withdrawal of the GIs from Indochina.

— On September 5, American Senator Adlai Stevenson urged Nixon to set a definite date for the total pullout of the US troops from South Viet Nam.

CHILEAN YOUTH ASSOCIATED WITH ANTI-U.S. RESISTANCE OF INDOCHINESE PEOPLE

ACCORDING to a report from Chile, an *International Get-Together of Latin and North American Youth and Students to Condemn Imperialism and Unite with Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia* was held in Santiago de Chile from August 31 to September 3, 1971.

Youth delegates from 62 countries took part in the rally. The delegation of the South Viet Nam Liberation Youth Union was led by Mrs Phan Minh Hien, member of the *Secretariat of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Liberation Youth Federation.*

The parade ended with a big meeting officially opening the get-together. Mrs Phan Minh Hien and Ngo Thanh Trang, hero of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, were invited to take part in the presidium of the meeting amidst the stormy applause of thousands of participants in the packed hall.

Opening the gathering, Ricardo Garcia read out messages of greeting from Premier Pham Van Dong, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, Prince Souphanouvong, the World Peace Council, etc. Then, Miss Gladys Marin, on behalf of *the Co-ordinating Committee of the Chilean Youth Organizations*, delivered the welcome address highlighting the international significance of the youth rally, the first to be held in Chile.

Vice-President Jose Joha, on behalf of the Chilean Government and people, extended his greetings to the rally and read President Salvador Allende's congratulations. The message said among other things: "Nobody can be blind to the historic significance of the heroism of the Vietnamese people. In particular, the young generation and the students will remember this war as an admirable fight of a nation who are uniting and triumphing over those who have lost all sense of morality. The people, workers, youths and intellectuals of Chile, side by side with the peoples of the other countries in Latin and North America declare their complete solidarity with the fighting peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia."

Also at this inaugural session, the leaders of the delegations of the Soviet Union, Cuba and the World Federation of Democratic Youth reaffirmed their total support for the sound and reasonable position of the Vietnamese people and urged the US imperialists to end their atrocious aggression in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, withdraw completely and unconditionally their troops from Viet Nam before the end of this year and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs as suggested in the 7-point peace initiative put forth on July 1, 1971 by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

After three days of intense work, on the evening of September 5, the closing session of the *International Get-together of Latin and North American Youth and Students to Condemn Imperialism and Unite with Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia* adopted a "Plan of Actions of Solidarity of Latin and North American Youth and Students with the Heroic Struggle of the Peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia."

The plan laid bare the peace hoaxes of the US government and said. "The youths and students of Latin and North America meeting in Santiago de Chile, representing all the youth and students on the American continent, declare their readiness to enhance their militant solidarity and take new and more important actions to support Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, the political centre of the international mobilization of the youths and students for resisting imperialism.

Our get-together shows our determination to make the slogan "prompt and total withdrawal of US, satellite and mercenary troops from South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia" the main watchword of the movement."

The plan provided for such practical actions as:

Promote throughout the American continent youth and student active participation, with concrete measures, in the world collection of funds for the Nguyen Van Troi pediatric institute in Hanoi. This campaign will develop into a major drive against the crimes of US imperialism and the savage imperialist war of extermination;

Step up their mobilization on the occasion of the December 20 founding anniversary of the National Front for Liberation of South Viet Nam;

Keep Otober 12, the Independence Day of Laos as Day of Solidarity with the people, youth and students of Laos, and organize on this occasion a big collection of school articles and sports gear for Lao children;

Commemorate November 9, Cambodia's National Day, as Day of Solidarity with the people and youth of Cambida;

Intensify, on the occasion of the death anniversary of Nguyen Van Troi, various campaigns of propaganda to popularize broadly and deeply the heroic example of the young electrician, symbol of the Vietnamese people;

Invite Vietnamese youths and students to visit Latin America;

Invite a delegation of the Viet Nam Commission for Investigations of US Crimes to visit a number of Latin American countries;

Support, make propaganda for, and co-ordinate actions in Latin America with, the major anti-war campaigns of the American people and youth, in particular on October 13 and on the occasion of the *March for the Right to Live* to be held on November 6, 1971.

Chile's Copihue and Dong Thap Plain Lotus

"WHY did you wait until now to come and visit us?", asked the greying man of middle height with a playful smile, President Allende, also affectionately addressed to as "comrade president" and 'our president" by the Chilean people.

Not waiting for our reply, he took our hands and said: "Follow me, I'll show you what I cherish most."

In his office, we saw two portraits of President Ho Chi Minh, the smaller one on his desk and the bigger one in the best place on the wall:

"So he is constantly by my side," he said.

Then he showed us into a small room decorated with, a lacquered picture of Ha Long Bay on a sunny day.

President Allende told us of the vivid memories he kept from his visit to Viet Nam and from his meeting with President Ho Chi Minh, a few months before the latter passed away.

"I can never forget the minutes I spent with President Ho Chi Minh," he said. "He left on me the deepest impressions. He epitomized the lofty revolutionary virtues of the heroic Vietnamese people. He set an everlasting shining example to all nations."

Carefully holding up the picture of a Dong Thap girl guerilla sent by Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, he said in a moving voice: "How heroic are the Vietnamese people! How heroic are the Vietnamese women? Progressive mankind can never value all the great contributions of the Vietnamese people to the national liberation movement of oppressed peoples."

On behalf of the Chilean government and people, he expressed high appreciation and staunch support of the PRG seven-point peace initiative which he regarded as a model of political maturity and flexibility.

Accompanying us to the door step, he said: "Through thick and thin, we are by your side and wholeheartedly behind you."

President Allende's heartfelt friendship was also that of all the Chilean people whom we met during the three weeks of our visit.

With pride, the Chilean youth showed us the paint stains which were still visible on the walls of the US Embassy in Santiago, and said: "They were made during a demonstration early in 1970 in support of the Vietnamese people against US aggression. In front of this building we held countless meetings and rallies and had many clashes with the police (of the old regime-*Ed.*) who apprehended, manhandled and jailed many of us for our support to Viet Nam."

Many of our Chilean friends produced blood donation receipts, others their applications to go and fight in Viet Nam which had been filed many years previously.

We travelled for nearly 190 kilometres through a hilly region from Valparaiso to Santiago, which distance thousands of young people had covered in a Support Viet Nam march in July 1967, the heart of winter in the Southern hemisphere.

All throught that long and difficult walk, they made known the Vietnamese position and scored US aggression in Viet Nam and called on the Chilean people to support us. As a token of sympathy, the inhabitants of the villages and urban centres along the road provided the demonstrators with bed and board. Many mothers sent their children to swell the ranks of the marchers. Despite a bitter cold, hunger and fatigue, no one gave way. On the contrary, the march was kept alive by revolutionary songs and the shouts:

"Viet Nam will win!"

"Support Viet Nam. Down with US Imperialism!"

"Long live Ho Chi Minh!"

Our Chilean friends called it a "short long-march," a "march" for Viet Nam.

Today the Chileans are closing their ranks around President Allende's government to stage a "march" one thousand times greater, but much more trying and much more glorious, to wrest back at any cost genuine sovereignty and economic independence which they call their "second independence."

Shortly before our arrival, Chile had been hard hit by heavy rains and snow falls. During our stay there, on July 8, a serious earthquake destroyed over 200,000 dwelling houses, killed 100 people and wounded 400 others. Adding to this was the economic sabotage of the US monopolies. However, braving such hard trial, the toughened people of Chile were resolved to go ahead and to sympathize further with the Vietnamese people.

Two days after the disaster, we were received by Mr Clodimiro Almeyda, the Foreign Minister. He said: "Our difficulties and hardships cannot stand comparison with the Vietnamese people's sacrifices. You have been living for decades in a perpetual tremor caused by a war of aggression, but you are forging ahead and carrying the day. We have for you a great admiration and owe you a great debt which we don't know when we are in a position to pay."

Three days after the earthquake, hnndreds of thousands of people met in the Heroes' Park in Rancagua, the biggest copper production centre in Chile, to hear President Allende's declaration on the "Second Independence," that is the decision to nationalize all the copper mines belonging to the US monopolies.

With the occupation of these mines, the US capitalists feathered their own nests on the sweat and blood of the Chilean workers, whereas, in a country ranking third in the world for copper production, the people lived in want and misery. The nationalization of these mines has paved the way for the effective liberation of that country from the domination of US neo-colonialism and for the building of a happy life. In these momentous hours, President Allende did not forget to display his militant solidarity with our people and to demand that the US "end its aggression against a small nation which stakes its dignity on the wresting back of independence and freedom." President Allende's words were greeted by a thunderous "Yanqui fuera de Viet Nam" (Yankee, get out of Viet Nam).

Five days after the calamity, thousands of Santiagoans held another meeting during which they expressed their solidarity with our people and support to the PRG seven points. The demonstrators could hear many Chilean artistes singing songs in praise of President Ho Chi Minh and the heroic Vietnamese people, and many poets reciting verses castigating the American devils for massacring Vietnamese women and children and expressing friendship for our people. Let's quote only the following lines:

"Open, oh beautiful flower
So red and so fresh with dew
Let's bring to heroic Viet Nam
The copihue, the flower of Chile."

The copihue is the flower of a creeper growing at high altitude which usually blossoms in late winter and early spring and symbolizes Chile.

Our three weeks with the Chileans were full of manifestations of solidarity between Chile and Viet Nam. Everywhere we went — workers' living quarters, mines, workshops, schools, rural areas — there were people who warmly shook hands with us, gave us affectionate hugs and assured us: "United, Viet Nam and Chile will win!"

The militant solidarity between our two peoples and our two countries will be as firm as the Truong Son Range in Viet Nam and the Andes in Chile and as fresh and warm as the copihue of Chile and the lotus of Dong Thap (Plain of Reeds in South Viet Nam — *Ed.*) are in colour.

LY VAN SAU

Head of the Delegation of South Viet Nam Patriotic and Democratic Journalists' Association visiting Chile.

A DISASTROUS ECONOMIC POLICY

(Concluded)

WAR ON ONE'S ALLIES

The hegemony of the dollar has been shaken since late 1960. With the 1965 "gold rush," the USA lost 1.6 billion dollars in gold. The 1967-1968 "gold rush" took a toll of 2.4 billion dollars. Faced with eventually emptied vaults, the USA gave up on March 17, 1968 its attempt to stabilize the price of gold: a fixed price for transactions with banks and a variable price on the gold market. On the threshold of 1970 the USA was in dire straits, with debts everywhere and not enough gold for payments.

The paper dollar had lost its golden glow. The capitalist world which had been often ill with dollar indigestions, was ready to drive away these germ-carrying dollars at any upheaval.

It was against a background of bankruptcy for the dollar that on August 13, 1971, Nixon made public his new economic measures" to save it and boost US position in the world economic relations and trade. He advocated:

1.— temporary suspension of the dollar's convertibility into gold for financial establishments and central banks of other countries;

2.— international talks for changing the rate of exchange between the dollar and other currencies, *without altering the official rate dollar-gold;*

3.— 10 per cent surcharge on the imports into the USA.

This first step meant that Nixon did not want to devaluate the depreciating dollar but to shift over its losses onto US "allies." The 17 *billion* dollars of West Germany, the 5.2 *billion* dollars of France and the 3.4 *billion* dollars of Britain would keep the form of greenbacks with less and less value, let alone the 50 *billion* Euro-dollars put into circulation by the USA after the Second World War in Europe. By this arbitrary measure, Nixon showed slight for his allies' advice and little care for the tens of billions of their dollars thus depreciated. This time West Europe and Japan — US close allies — not only opposed that action, but were also angered by the 10 per cent surcharge on US imports. West German press complained that Nixon's strategy paralysed the economy of the Western countries and pointed out that the dollar had lost its dominant role. The Frankfurter Rundschau wrote that by halting the gold convertibility of the dollar the USA government had admitted that the dollar was no longer as good as gold. Clearly enough, the US attempt to buy dollars abroad to shore up its gold reserve will lead to the bankruptcy of the US National Bank whose gold reserve has fallen to a mere 10 *billion* dollars.

Following this arbitrary US decision, Japan which annually sells to the USA 30 per cent of its 24-billion dollar worth of goods, loses billions of dollars.

By levying additional taxes on imports, Nixon has begun to erect a new customs "great wall" in the USA. Taking advantage of his position as creditor, Nixon asserted in his August 18 speech that it was a better solution for international trade not directed any country and that "after the Second World War, the USA has granted 143 billion dollars of aid to foreign countries which have now become its dangerous competitors."

It is true that the balance of forces between the USA and its capitalist allies has changed owing to the latter's growth. Now that Nixon has played a dirty trick on them, they will certainly retaliate. The conflict between the USA and West Europe and Japan is bound to last. The *Washington Evening Star* has remarked that: The US 10 per cent surcharges on imports will invite a rebuff from other countries. US economy will remain unstable. The dollar is floating but the officials refuse to admit that it is depreciated. Nixon has *de facto* launched a "trade war" on the West.

A DOWNRIGHT SWINDLE

Inside the US, since the beginning of this years, Nixon has been striving to endure inflation so as to reduce the number of jobless. He has chosen

free competition, discarding the control of prices, wages and interest. Unfortunately, in August 1971, the unemployment rate went up to 6,000,000 men, while inflation ran wild. All the balances and budgets were alarmingly deficient. Prices soar by 7 per cent a year. Hastily Nixon tried to cope with the situation to enter the presidential race in a less tragic posture.

In Nixon's new economic measures, the temporary freeze of wages, prices and interest for 90 days takes pride of place. Then come a 5 per cent cut on the Federal Civil Service and a reduction of 4.7 billion dollars on Federal spending. They also include a freeze on workers' wages, on the interest for the depositors of money among them 20 million pensioners living on fixed incomes.

The President of the AFL-CIO George Meany has denounced that owing to Nixon's wrong economic guidance, the number of jobless workers has nearly *doubled* in two and a half years. Over 5 *million* workers are unemployed. 14.5 *million* Americans are on relief. The number of poor people amounts to 25.5 million.

The AFL-CIO regards Nixon's economic steps as a series of moves, a conjuring trick of Madison Avenue, a downright swindle for the American people.

US war policy is arousing throughout the world an anti-US and support Viet Nam movement

Japanese demonstrators displaying the RSVN flag, in protest against US aggression in Indochina

On the other hand the US President has taken several measures to raise the profits of the big capitalists to enlist their support for the 1972 presidential elections.

Nixon has lowered the taxes on capital invested in equipment and machinery whose manufacture has just begun and abolished the 7 per cent consumption tax on newly-made cars. The American Trade Union leaders have bitterly remarked that his new deal calls for sacrifices from the workers but gives a bonanza to businessmen.

The Central Committee of the American Communist Party described Nixon's speech as boastful, cynical, demagogic and hypocritical. He spoke of prosperity for everybody, but lowered the living conditions of the masses. He announced a reduction of government expenditures, while raising the military budget to 80 billion dollars. He also refused to fix a date for the withdrawal of all US forces from Southeast Asia.

Therefore, Nixon's new economic policy will widen the political chasm in the USA. Flouting the freeze on wages, 203 trade-unions have already launched a movement for a wage-hike.

THE US economy is in danger. The hegemony of the dollar is tottering. Nixon wants to save it but has prescribed a wrong treatment. His plan for a "new boom without war" and other economic measures ignored the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, one of the causes of the grave disease affecting the US economy.

John Litish, a professor of Economics at California University, is of the view that an end to the Viet Nam war, the real cause of the inflation in the USA, is the main stimulus to keep the wages at the same pace as labour productivity (*AP*, August 16, 1971). On August 18, Riokichi Minobe, Mayor of Tokyo, also said that the most efficient step Nixon can take to save the US economy is to put an end to the Viet Nam war.

But Nixon obdurately sets his face against this legitimate demand. His new economic policy is wrong remedy. It is a dangerous emergency solution and not a sound prescription.

KHA DINH

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION